A young boy with short blonde hair and round brown glasses is shown in profile, looking to the left. He has a red, cylindrical object, possibly a pencil sharpener or a small container, stuck in his mouth. He is wearing a brown and red plaid shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

What's The
Big Deal
About
Profanity,
Anyway?

- SPEECH / **WORSHIP** / BEHAVIOR

Leviticus 10:1–11

Leviticus 10:1–11

10 Then Nadab^a and Abihu, the sons of Aaron,^b each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered^c profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.² So fire^d went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke, saying:

‘By those^e who come near Me

I must be regarded as holy;

And before all the people

I must be glorified.’”

So Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 10:1–11

⁴ Then Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, “Come near, ^fcarry your brethren from ¹before the sanctuary out of the camp.” ⁵ So they went near and carried them by their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said.

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not ²uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and ^gwrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, ³bewail the burning which the LORD has kindled. ⁷^h You shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die, ⁱfor the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you.” And they did according to the word of Moses.

Leviticus 10:1–11

Conduct Prescribed for Priests

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: ⁹*j*“Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations, ¹⁰ that you may ^kdistinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, ¹¹*l*and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Numbers 4:15,20 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry *them*; but **they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.** “These *are* the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry. . . . ²⁰ But **they shall not go in to watch while the holy things are being covered, lest they die.**”

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

PROFANE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

(Adjective.) 2: not holy because unconsecrated, impure, or defiled: unsanctified (Merriam Webster)

[2424] זָרַ *zār* 70× strange, foreign, alien, one of a different kind; unauthorized, illegitimate [2214*]
See *foreign(er)*; *strange(r)*; *unauthorized*.

Mounce, W. D. (2006). In Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words. Zondervan.

(Verb) 1. To treat (something sacred) with abuse, irreverence, or contempt: desecrate (Merriam Webster)

[2725] הָלַל *hālal* 135× [N] to defile oneself, be profaned, be desecrated; [P] to defile, profane, desecrate; to enjoy; [Pu] to be defiled; ... See ... defile; desecrate; proceed; profane.

Mounce, W. D. (2006). In Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words. Zondervan.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Leviticus 10:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered **profane** fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. ² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘**By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.**’ ” So Aaron held his peace.

זָרָה zār 70× strange, foreign, alien, one of a different kind; unauthorized, illegitimate

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Exodus 20:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have **profaned** it.

חָלַל ḥālāl 135 × [N] to defile oneself, be profaned, be desecrated;

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Exodus 31:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for *it is* holy to you. Everyone who **profanes** it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does *any* work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

חָלַל *hālāl* 135 × [N] *to defile oneself, be profaned, be desecrated;*

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Leviticus 19:12 (NKJV)

¹² And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you **profane** the name of your God: I *am* the Lord.

חָלַל ḥālāl 135 × [N] to defile oneself, be profaned, be desecrated;

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

PROFANE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

(Adjective.) 2: not holy because unconsecrated, impure, or defiled: unsanctified (Merriam Webster)

(Verb) 1. To treat (something sacred) with abuse, irreverence, or contempt: desecrate (Merriam Webster)

[1013] βέβηλος bebēlos 5× pr. what is open and accessible to all; hence, profane, not religious, not connected with religion; unholy; a despiser, scorner, [952]

Mounce, W. D. (2006). In Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words. Zondervan.

[1014] βεβηλόω bebēloō 2× to profane, pollute, violate, Mt. 12:5; Acts 24:6* [953]

Mounce, W. D. (2006). In Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words. Zondervan.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

1 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for *the* lawless and insubordinate, for *the* ungodly and for sinners, for *the* unholy and **profane**, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

(ADJ.) [1013] βέβηλος bebēlos 5 × pr. what is open and accessible to all; hence, profane, not religious, not connected with religion; unholy;

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Hebrews 12:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ lest there *be* any fornicator or **profane** person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(ADJ.) [1013] βέβηλος bebēlos 5 × pr. what is open and accessible to all; hence, profane, not religious, not connected with religion; unholy;

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Matthew 12:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple **profane** the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is *One* greater than the temple.

(V) [1014] βεβηλόω bebēloō 2 × to profane, pollute, violate, Mt. 12:5; Acts 24:6 [953]*

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



“The general is sorry to be informed that the foolish and wicked practice of profane swearing, a vice hitherto little known in the American Army, is growing in fashion. He hopes the officers will by example as well as influence endeavor to check it and that both they and the men will reflect that we can have little hope of the blessing of heaven on our arms if we insult it by our impiety and profanity.”

(George Washington)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



- ▶ The Israelites were not to use God's name for any idle, frivolous, or insincere purpose - Ex 20:7 - (*i.e., speaking His name when taking an oath with no intention of keeping it, Lev. 19:12; Mat 5:33-37; James 5:12*).
- ▶ To misuse God's name means literally, "to lift it up to or attach it to emptiness."
- ▶ A Christian who uses God's name flippantly or falsely demonstrates an irreverent attitude & dishonors God.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



1. *aischrotes*
(αἰσχρότης, 151),
“baseness” (from *aischos*,
“shame, disgrace”), is
used in Eph, 5:4, of
obscenity, all that is
contrary to purity

▶ “Let no **corrupt word** proceed out of your mouth,” (Eph 4:29)

▶ “Neither **filthiness**, nor **foolish talking**,” (Eph 5:4)

▶ “Nor **coarse jesting**, which are not fitting,” (Eph 5:4)

▶ “Put off all these: ... **blasphemy, filthy [abusive] language** out of your mouth.” (Col 3:8)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



Matthew 12:34–37 (NKJV)

³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



James 3:9–12 (NKJV)

⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring send forth fresh *water* and bitter from the same opening? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

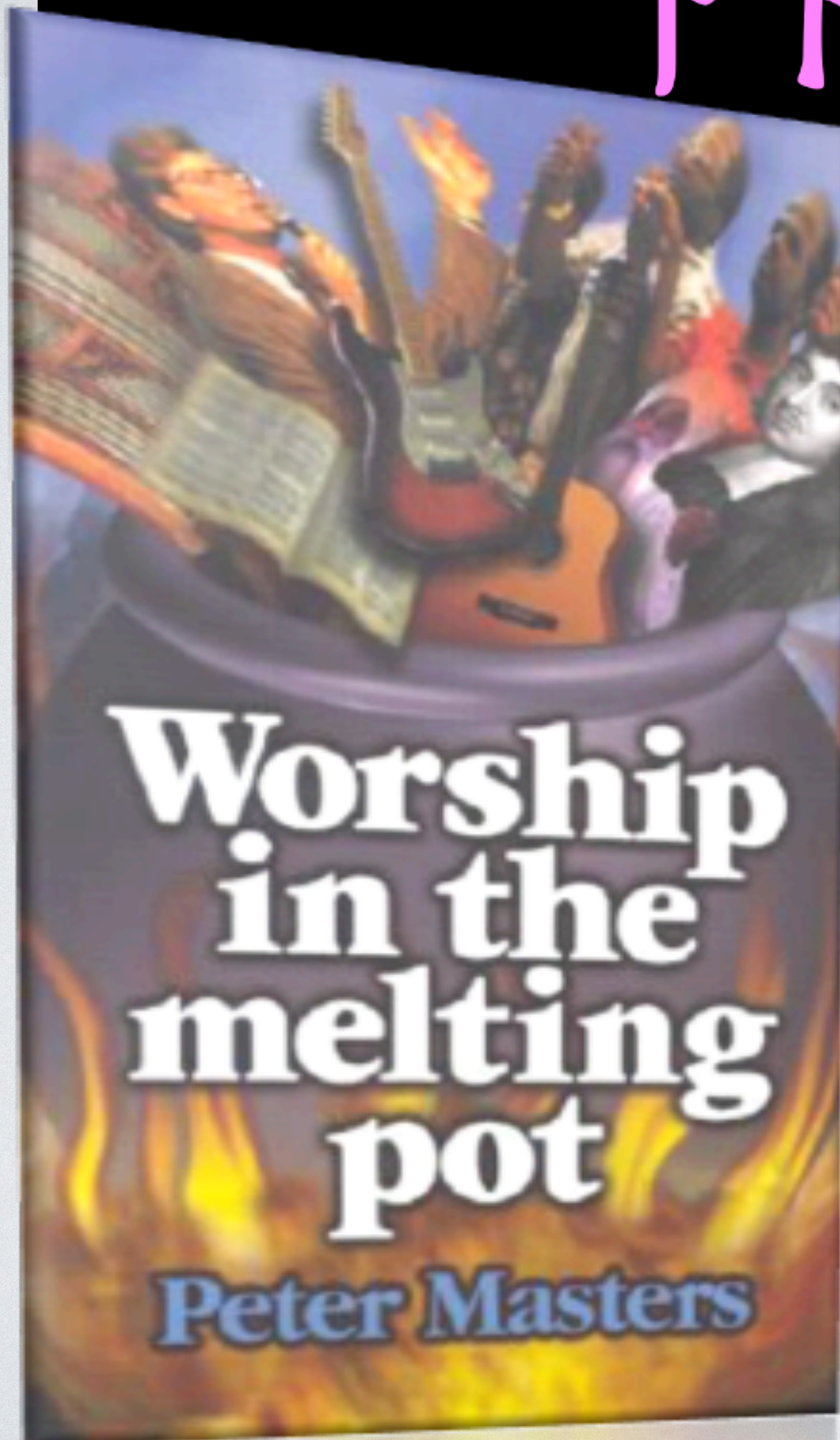
"THE PROFANE TONGUE"



- The False Teaching Tongue
- The Flattering Tongue
- The Cursing & Filthy Tongue
- The Overused Tongue
- The Lying Tongue
- The Swift Tongue
- The Complaining Tongue
- The Backbiting, Tale bearing, & (Gossiping) Tongue
- The Silent Tongue

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

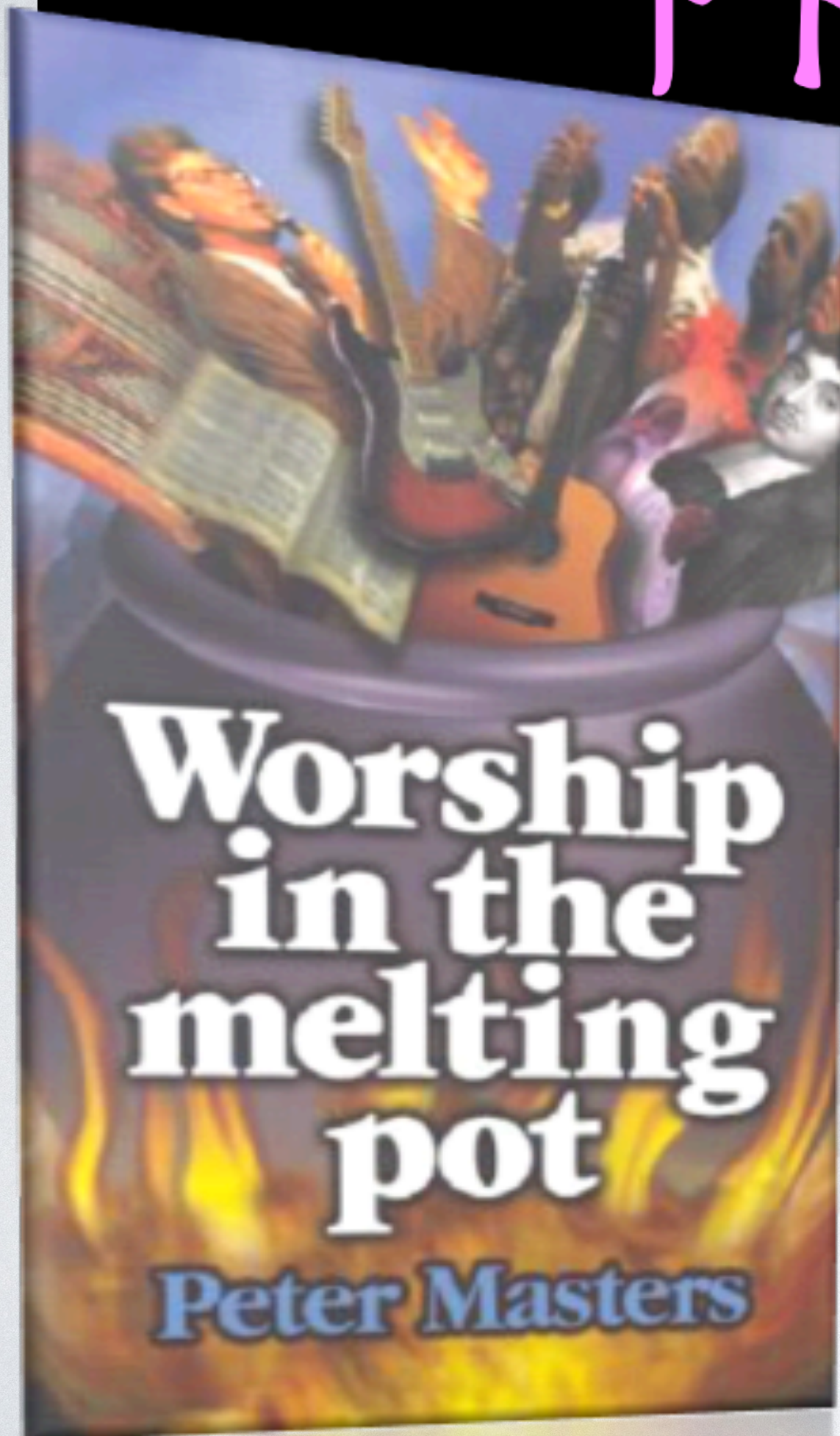
"PROFANE WORSHIP"



- Jesus says our worship is VAIN when we believe, teach & practice the doctrines of men (Mat 15:1-9)
- When we give God our leftovers (Mal 1:6-8, 10-14)
- When we are unfaithful to God (Mal 2:10-12; Jn 9:31)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

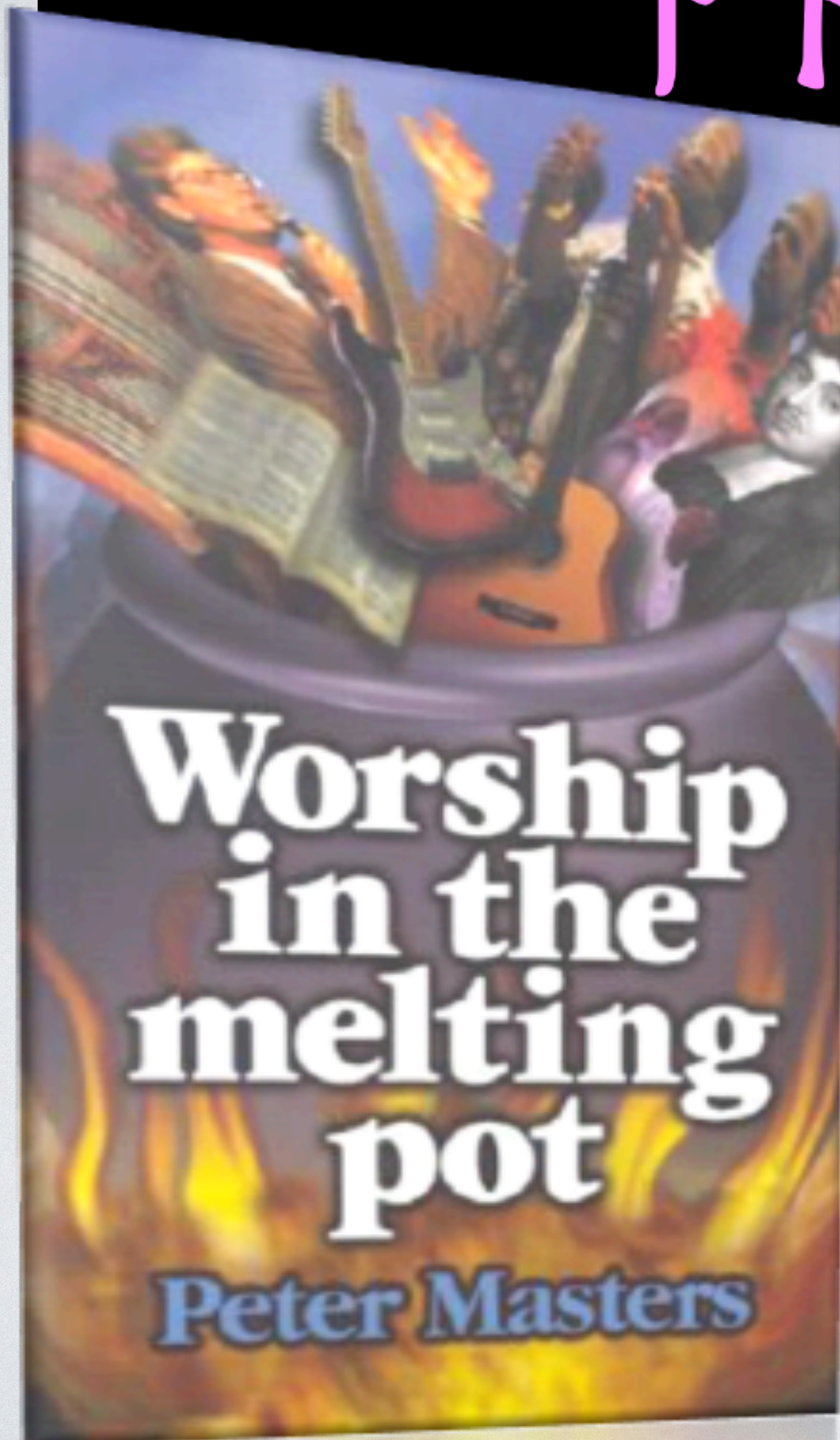
"PROFANE WORSHIP"



- Those who worship God “must worship Him in spirit & truth” (John 4:24)
- We do not have the right to change or take lightly God’s prescribed pattern for worship (Mat 15:1-9; 2 Jn 1:9,10)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"PROFANE WORSHIP"



- **Lord's supper** (1 Cor. 11:17-34)
- **Praying** (Mat 6:5-13)
- **Preaching** (2 Tim 4:2-4)
- **Giving** (1 Cor 16:1,2; 2 Cor 8:1-9)
- **Music** (Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"PROFANE BEHAVIOR"



- Our bodies belong to God - they are NOT for sinning (1 Cor 6:13-20; Rom 6:1,11)
- Where we go, what we do, what we say - all cast a reflection upon God - GOOD or BAD (Mat 5:13-16; Phili 2:14-16; Ro. 2:24; 1 Co. 10:32; Titus 2:5, 8, 10; 1 Pe. 2:12; 3:16)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"PROFANE BEHAVIOR"



- **We are to be holy** (1 Pet 1:13ff; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Rom 12:1,2)
 - ▶ Do the clothes we wear profess holiness? (1 Tim 2:9,10; 1 Pt 3:1-4)
 - ▶ Do the places we frequent profess holiness? (1 Cor 10:20,21; 8:10)
 - ▶ Does the entertainment we enjoy and allow into our minds profess holiness? (Phili 4:8)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

"OTHER THINGS COMMONLY PROFANED"



- The Lord's church (Mat 16:18; 1 Cor 3:16; Eph 5:23-27)
- The Lord's money (Acts 5:4; 1 Cor 16:1,2)
- The Lord's institution of marriage (Gen 2:24; Mat 19:3-9; Heb 13:4)
- The Lord's revelation of Himself (2 Tim 2:15; 4:2-5; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Pet 3:16-18)

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter

Hebrews 12:15–17 (NKJV)

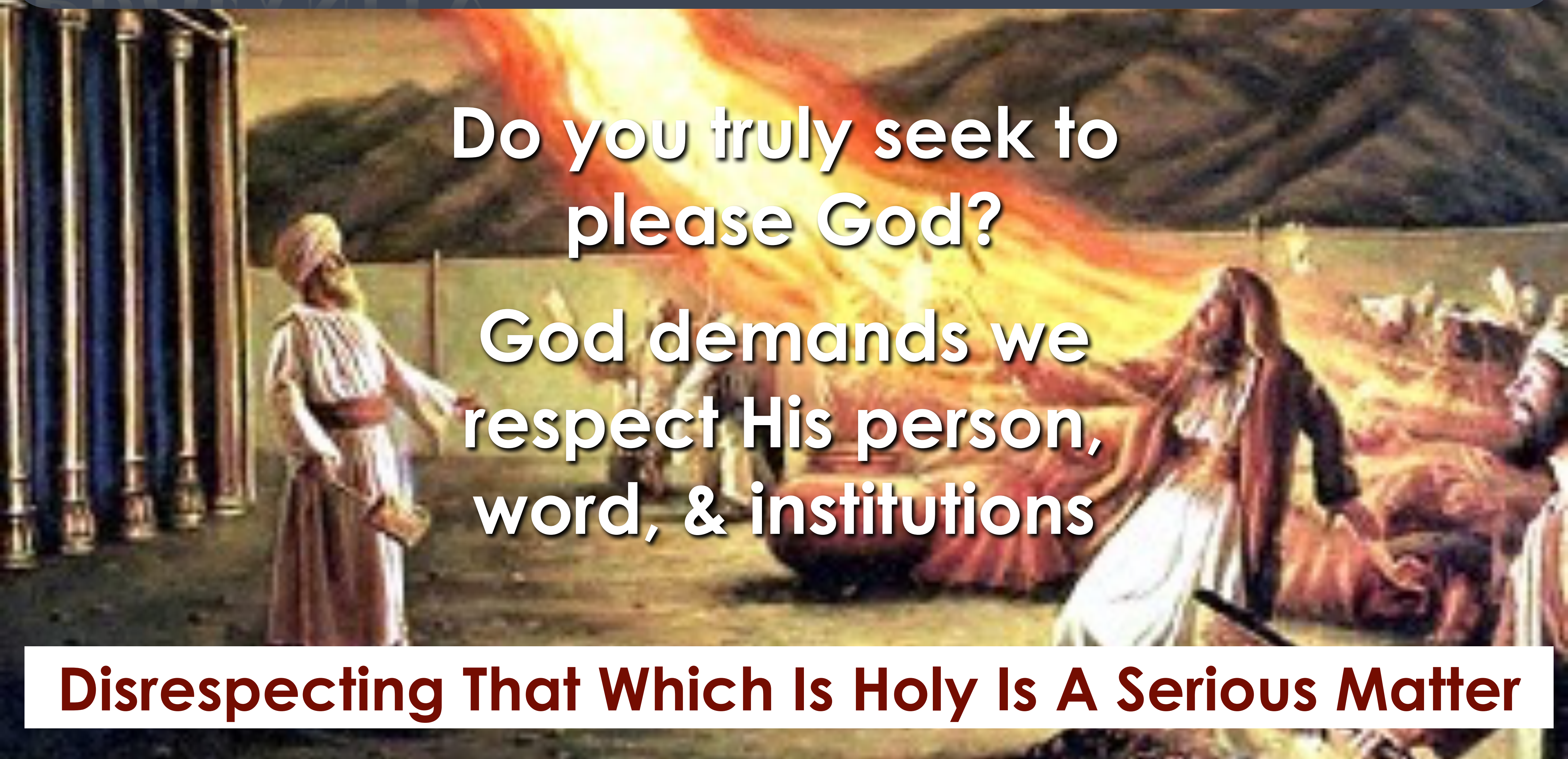
¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become **defiled**; ¹⁶ lest there *be* any fornicator or **profane** person like Esau, who **for one morsel of food sold his birthright**. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, **he was rejected**, for he **found no place for repentance**, though he sought it diligently with tears.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Do you truly seek to please God?

God demands we respect His person, word, & institutions

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter



PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

Disrespecting That Which Is Holy Is A Serious Matter



**WE CAN ONLY HONOR
GOD BY OBEYING HIM!**

Hebrews 12:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴

Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; ¹⁶ lest there *be* any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

PROFANITY - SPEECH / WORSHIP / BEHAVIOR

pro•fane \prō-'fān, prə-\ *verb transitive* - pro•fane•d; pro•fan•ing

[Middle English *prophanen*, from Anglo-French *prophaner*, from Latin *profanare*, from *profanus*] 14th century

1: to treat (something sacred) with abuse, irreverence, or contempt: desecrate

2: to debase by a wrong, unworthy, or vulgar use—**pro•fan•er** *noun*

2**profane** *adjective*

1: not concerned with religion or religious purposes: secular

2: not holy because unconsecrated, impure, or defiled: unsanctified

3a: serving to debase or defile what is holy: irreverent

b: obscene, vulgar

4a: not being among the initiated

b: not possessing esoteric or expert knowledge—**pro•fane•ly** *adverb*

—**pro•fane•ness** \-'fān-nəs\ *noun*